

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A ceramic heater comprising a ceramic substrate and a heating element disposed internally or on a surface of the ceramic substrate,

wherein said surface is controlled to a flatness of 1 to 50  $\mu\text{m}$  over a measurement area which ranges until a point  $\pm 5$  mm distant from the diametric end of the surface.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The ceramic heater according to Claim 10, wherein said surface is controlled to a flatness of 1 to 20  $\mu\text{m}$  over a measurement area which ranges until a point  $\pm 5$  mm distant from the diametric end of the surface.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The ceramic heater according to Claim 10, wherein said ceramic substrate comprises a nitride ceramic.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The ceramic heater according to Claim 10, wherein said ceramic substrate comprises a sintering aid.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The ceramic heater according to Claim 10, wherein said ceramic substrate comprises at least one of an alkali metal, an alkaline earth metal, and a rare earth metal.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The ceramic heater according to Claim 10, wherein said ceramic substrate comprises at least one of Li, Na, Ca, Rb and Y.